GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:347
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of allocation and target fixed for Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) by the Government during the current year;

(b) the total amount of USO Fund released and utilized by the telecom operators during the current year;

(c) whether there has been huge amount of unutilized USO Fund available with the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) The Total amount of allocation and target fixed for Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) during the current Financial Year is Rs.2000 Crore.

(b) The total amount of USO Fund released and utilized by the telecom operators during the current year till 30th September 2008 is Rs.357 Crore.

(c) to (e) Universal Service Obligation (USO) levy is collected @ 5% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) of all telecom service providers except the pure value added service providers like internet,voice mail,USO Fund is allocated through budgetary process with the approval of Parliament.A statement indicating the funds collected,allocated and disbursed from USO Fund since its inception is given in the Annexure.